



ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

March 2025

www.spfa.holyspirit.ab.ca
School/Newsletters/SPFA Newsletters

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday gos- pel readings listed below:						1 Conference Manager opens for School Interviews booking
2 <i>Luke 6:39-45</i>	3 Girls Basketball vs St. Paul's @ SPFA 	4 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch 	5 Ash Wednesday Mass @ St. Martha's Church Gr. 6 to Buffalo Grace Manor	6 Bake Sale Bake Sale hosted by grades 2 & 3 Gr. 6 Day of Silence 	7 Basketball Jamboree 	8
9 Daylight Savings begins <i>Luke 4:1-13</i>	10 Gr. 6 tours St. Francis Junior High 	11 	12 Round 2 Artist Workshops begin Grs. 2-6 attend SFJH's "Newsies" School Council Meeting @ 6:30	13	14 Lenten Assembly 	15 Swimming Party @ Nicholas Sheran 
16 <i>Luke 9:28b-36</i>	17 St. Patrick's Day Divisional Collaborative Day—no school for students 	18 Spiritual Development Day—no school for students 	19  School Interviews Scholastic Book Fair 	20  School Interviews Scholastic Book Fair Gr. 6 tours Father Leonard van Tighem	21 Lenten Assembly  Kindergarten Interviews in the morning	22
23 <i>Luke 13:1-9</i>	24 Gr. 6 Confirmation Retreat D Spot lunch order opens Kindergarten Interviews 31	25 Gr. 5 to Galt Museum 	26 Divisional Board Meeting	27	28 Lenten Assembly 	29



ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

April 2025

www.spfa.holyspirit.ab.ca
School/Newsletters/SPFA Newsletters

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday gospel readings listed below:		1	2 D Spot lunch closes	3 School Council Meeting @ 6:30 	4	5 Lenten Assembly 
6 <i>John 11:1-45</i>	7 Grade 2 Eucharist Retreat  6L to CASA	8 Choir Concert	9 D Spot Lunch 	10	11	12 Lenten Assembly 
13 Palm Sunday <i>Luke 22:14-23:56</i>	14 6D to CASA	15 4SF to Lethbridge Landfill 	16	17 Holy Thursday Last day before Easter break	18 Good Friday 	19
20 Easter Sunday  <i>John 20:1-9</i>	21 EASTER BREAK Apr 30 pizza order opens	22	23	24	25	26  <i>Happy Easter!</i>
27 Apr 30 pizza order closes <i>John 20:19-31</i>	28 Opa hot lunch order opens	29	30 Artist Workshop Round 2 ends Pizza Lunch  Divisional Board Meeting			

March 2025



ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS



LEARN ACTIVELY - GROW SPIRITUALLY - LIVE CREATIVELY

www.spfa.holyspirit.ab.ca 403.327.4386

Facebook/Instagram: @spfaschool #hs4

Message from the Principal - Kathy Jones-Husch

The warm weather has been such a welcome change for everyone, and brings with it a lot of exciting things at St. Patrick Fine Arts School. Moving into Lent is a good time to take stock, reflecting on what we have accomplished and what we are looking forward to over the 40 days ahead taking us to the Triduum and to the Easter season.

In February, a number of our students were able to participate in workshops and traditional storytelling with elder Blanche Bruised Head at the Galt Museum. This multi-school event was made possible through Jordan's Principle funding and will provide great memories for years to come.

We also welcomed Der'Ric Starlight, a professional puppeteer from Tsut'tina Nation who works on CBC's *Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock* on Apple+. He has created his own set of 'Nuppets' (Native puppets) to meld familiar puppets with Indigenous elements. These characters inspired our students to make their own simple puppets, complete with details and voices. The final show on Friday was loved by all, and was a great boost for kids who see themselves making a career in the creative arts, including technology. This Artist in Residence was made possible through grant funding and the iSWAG team (Indigenous Student Wellness Access Guide).



Looking forward, our students are excited to share their time and talents with the community through 'Leaping Into Lent' service projects. From remaining silent for a day to collecting care supplies for our most vulnerable, your children are learning what it means to fast, to pray, and to give alms. I hope that this Lenten season is one filled with reflection, recommitment and wide service, especially through continued prayer. We will attend Ash Wednesday mass on the 5th (9 am) and observe Lenten liturgies each Friday between the 7th and Easter. All are welcome to join us!

Blessings, Mrs. Jones-Husch

Please send your thoughts/feedback to spfaoffice@holyspirit.ab.ca

Growing in Faith

As we journey through the holy season of Lent, we are invited to reflect on the love and sacrifice of Jesus. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; it is a season to draw closer to God and to grow in our love for one another.

For children and families in our school community, Lent provides a special opportunity to practice kindness, patience, and generosity. Small acts of love, sharing with a friend, including someone who feels left out, or offering a prayer for those in need help us live out our faith in meaningful ways.



At times, we may stumble in our Lenten promises, but each moment is a chance to begin again. God does not ask for perfection, only a willing heart. When we turn back to Him with sincerity, He fills us with His grace and strengthens us to keep going.

Once again, our **Student Retreat** will center around **service**. Our classes have developed a variety of meaningful ways to serve both our local community and those in need around the world. Through these acts of service, we reflect the love of Jesus and bring His light to others.

This Lent, let us ask ourselves: How can I be more like Jesus? How can I show love to my family, friends, and those in need? Through our Lenten promises and our desire to follow Christ, we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter and the hope of His resurrection.

May this season bring our school community closer to God and to one another.

Blessings on your Lenten journey!



School Council



Happy March, SPFAE Families!

Spring is right around the corner and School Council is excited to step into this new season with you.

To kick off this month, we are very excited to celebrate Shrove Tuesday as a school family with Whole School Hot Lunch, generously provided by Original Joe's and the Weekes family on Tuesday, March 4th. A Gluten free option will be available, and there will be enough for all at no cost to you!

Make sure to mark your calendars for our next social event! We'd love to have you and your family join us for swimming at Nicholas Sheran on Saturday from 6:30-8:30 PM for only \$2 per person. Please note that parents are required to accompany children and pool lifeguards will be on duty.

Our next School Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 12th at 6:30 PM. You're welcome to join us in person or virtually at the following link <http://meet.google.com/esi-gwiq-uhz>; however fits best you're able to join, we welcome your voice and ideas around the table as we plan and advocate for the students and staff at St. Pat's.

Finally, make sure you've marked your calendar for "Night in Bloom," our spring fundraising Gala coming up on May 24th. Watch for opportunities to support, volunteer and purchase tickets for what will definitely be a memorable night in support of our school! All funds raised will go to school beautification and future learning opportunities for the students.

I know this is going to be a great Spring season for our school community!

Best,
~Catherine Furukawa
School Council Chair



Notices

Please visit the school website for any **Community Notices** under Newsletters / Community Notices. This month's postings include:

- Lethbridge Cougars Basketball Club Tryout Registration
- Stars Volleyball Easter Camp Registration

POOL PARTY

Join us at the Nicholas Sheran
Leisure Centre
Saturday March 15
6:30-8:30 pm
Toonie per Person

Parents please do
not leave your
children
unattended



ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

80 RIVERGR
EEN ROAD W. LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA T1K 7Y1
403-327-4386 www.spfa.holyspirit.ab.ca Social Media: @spfaschool, #hs4
PRINCIPAL – Kathy Jones-Husch ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL – Carla Ferrari

UNITING THE ARTS AND GOSPEL VALUES FOR OVER 30 YEARS

Dear Parents and Families,

February 12th, 2025

As part of our Grade 5 Lenten service project, we are excited to be working on an initiative called *Kids for Community*, where our students will be giving back to the community by helping those who are homeless in Lethbridge. This project will offer a wonderful opportunity for our students to understand the importance of helping others and showing kindness.

On March 5th (Ash Wednesday) Grade 5 students will be creating **Kare Packages** to be distributed by Ken Hakstol's team, along with making **sandwiches** for those in need.

To make this project a success, we are asking for donations from families. We would greatly appreciate any of the following items that can fit in a **large Ziploc bag**:

- Toques and mitts (new or gently used)
- Socks (new or gently used)
- Mini shampoo, body wash, and mini lotions
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Hot pockets or other small, easy-to-eat food items
- Mini Kleenex or hand wipes
- Halls, hard candies, or soft snacks
- Lip chap
- Band-Aids
- Feminine hygiene products
- Small water bottles

Donations can be brought to the school by **March 5th**. Once collected, our Grade 5 students will be sorting and packing the items into the Kare Packages, which will be distributed to those in need.

Any contribution, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated and will make a meaningful difference to those in our community. Thank you for your support in helping our students grow in kindness and compassion!

Warm regards,

Alanna Miller and Jessica Duncan - Grade 5 teachers

ST. PATRICK'S
GRADE 2 AND 3 ARE HOSTING A
Bake Sale!

COME ONE, COME ALL!

FOOD FOR FOOD
PROCEEDS OF THE BAKE SALE TO GO
TO THE LETHBRIDGE FOOD BANK

Come enjoy homemade treats and help support a great cause this Lenten season!

Thursday, March 6th, 10:00-11:30am

Aside from baked goods there will be some healthy options.
Items will range in price from 0.25 cents to
\$1.00



Registration Update Forms are Now Due!

Please complete your child's 2025-2026 Registration Update Form. If they are not returning, simply select the option "not attending" to complete the form. Alberta Education requires that these forms be filled out every year and the sooner we have registrations in, the sooner we can make plans for next year!

To complete the form, you will need to access your parent portal in PowerSchool. From our [school webpage](#), click on the three horizontal lines (top right corner) and select the "P" for PowerSchool.

Click on the 'SchoolEngage' link on the bottom left corner of the screen. Click on the 'Student' tab on the left-hand side of the screen. Select the student who has the red dot by their name. The red dot indicates that they have a form assigned to them that needs to be filled out.

On the right hand side of the screen under 'Forms', select the '2025-2026 Registration Update Form'. Click on the blue button on the left bottom corner of the box to open the assigned form. You can then review and complete the form. Please ensure you are selecting the form for the 2025-2026 school year.

If you require any assistance, please call or e-mail the office. You are welcome to visit the office and complete the form onsite using one of our computers - much easier to read than on a phone.

Thank you!

Travelling Art Exhibition

Athletic Aesthetics
Mar 6 - Apr 9, 2025



Curated from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts collection, this exhibit draws parallels between the pursuits of athletics and visual arts. Each piece depicts a moment relating to sport, play or practice. The exhibition content is varied in both artistic medium and athletic activity. Techniques include photography, video, print making, drawing and painting. Imagery includes sports such as football, cycling, badminton and skiing in addition to other impressive feats of athleticism such as ballet, bull riding and gymnastics. Athletic Aesthetics is an optimistic exhibition that urges viewers to find pleasure in the joy of movement and activity and to delight in the aesthetics of human ability, no matter what form that might take.



SCHOLASTIC

WE'RE HAVING A BOOK FAIR!

March 19, 2025 - March 21, 2025

Get ready! The Book Fair is coming our way. Choosing their own books empowers kids and inspires them on their journey to becoming lifelong readers. We can't wait to see you! **HELP US BY VOLUNTEERING WITH THE FAIR. CLICK ON THE VOLUNTEER LINK BELOW.**

[Learn More](#)

WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

[Sign Up](#)



PREVIEW BOOKS FROM THE FAIR

Get a sneak peek at the characters your kids will be talking about. Plus, check out our digital highlights flyers.

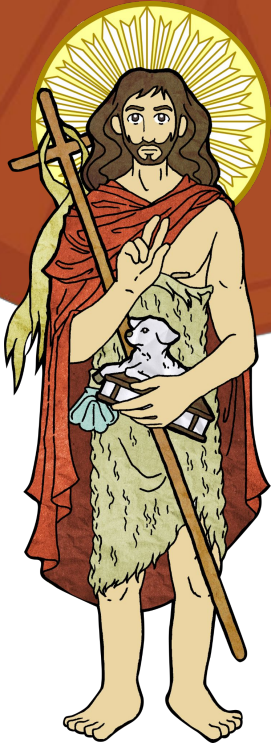
[Explore Featured Books](#)

March

"This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

- Matthew 3:3

St. John the Baptist 6 B.C.-30 A.D. (Feast Day: June 24)



Proclaim! Pilgrims of Hope

John the Baptist was born to Zechariah and Elizabeth in the 1st century B.C. We can read the most detailed account of this in the Gospel of Luke, where the angel Gabriel visits them prior to visiting Mary. This has led to the placement of John the Baptist's feast day as six months before Christmas, on June 24. John's public ministry is conducted in the desert, where he is described as a voice 'crying out in the wilderness', wearing clothes made of camel hair and eating locusts and wild honey. He baptizes his followers in the Jordan River, in order to forgive their sins, and calls for repentance in advance of the coming of the Messiah. In this way, we recognize John the Baptist as a prophet of Christ. The Gospels describe John's baptism of Christ:

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased. (Mark 1: 9-11)

At some point after this, John the Baptist is taken prisoner by Herod, and then beheaded (which is confirmed by the Roman historian Josephus). John the Baptist is the last of the prophets that heralded the coming of Christ, and serves as a model for us in a variety of ways. He speaks of the need for repentance and a healthy understanding of our own sins and flaws. He points to Christ, drawing our attention to him. Finally, his constant witness to Christ, which led him to his death, reminds us to always speak the truth and to put God first in our lives. As we begin Lent this month, may he help us to repent and to prepare the way of the Lord.

The Apostles' Creed

"I believe in the Holy Spirit..."

The word Spirit is a translation of the Hebrew word *ruah*, which means breath, air, or wind - these multiple meanings suggest the various ways in which we feel the movement of the Spirit in our lives. We also use many different symbols for the Holy Spirit — fire, wind, doves, water, light — representing the multitude of gifts that we receive in the Spirit. Traditionally, we think of the seven gifts of the Spirit given at Baptism and sealed at confirmation:

- **Wisdom** - the ability to see things from all sides, to see not only the facts but the relationships between them.
- **Understanding** - the ability to see from others perspectives, to accept and care for others.
- **Counsel** - the ability to judge rightly, seeking input from those around us.
- **Knowledge** - Seeing the world around us as it is.
- **Fortitude** - the strength to follow our conscience in spite of obstacles or difficulties.

- **Piety** - reverence for the value of every thing and person that God has created - to see God's holiness reflected in the world around us.
- **Fear of the Lord** - sometimes known as awe and wonder, the ability to be amazed, to realize the powerful presence of God at all times.

Further, we think of the signs of the Spirit — the fruits of the Spirit — as evidence of its work in our lives. The twelve fruits are *kindness, joy, peace, patience, goodness, long-suffering, humility, fidelity/faith, modesty, self-control, chastity, and love*.

We can notice that in all of the above, there is relationship — that the Spirit, as a relationship, enlivens, animates, and directs us into right relationship with God and with each other.

As we seek to become *Pilgrims of Hope* this year, let us continue to contemplate the Creed, and how our proclamation of the Creed unites us to one another and to all Christians through time and space.

"Proclaiming" In Our Schools

To help raise money for the Chalice Project and St. Odilia's School, St. Joseph School, Coaldale's Leadership class recently held a Hot Chocolate Fundraiser. Not only did the students and staff have a blast putting this together, they were able to raise over \$600 through the event! A big thanks to everyone who helped make this fundraiser a success!

If you are interested in more information about our Chalice project, or St. Odilia's School, you can reach out to Aaron Skretting, Director of Religious Education, or view [here](#).

The Jubilee Prayer: [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)



Pope's Prayer Intentions - For Families in Crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

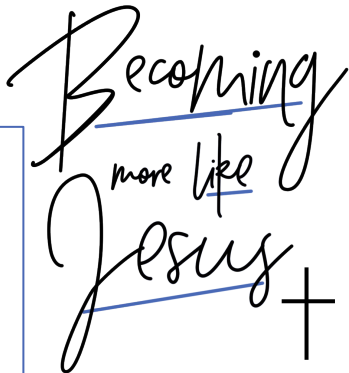
Gospel Readings

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:39-45

“Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?” — Luke 6:41

In today’s Gospel, Jesus warned his followers about criticizing others. You might be thinking: “If they are doing something wrong, shouldn’t we tell them so they can change?” We do have a responsibility to help others do the right thing. But it’s often easier to notice when someone else is at fault than to notice when we are at fault. The best thing we can do to help others stay on the right track is to model it in our own lives. Rather than pointing out someone else’s faults, we can concentrate on living the most loving way we possibly can. Actions really do speak louder than words!

Do people tend to follow your example? What is one thing you could do that might help your friends be more like Jesus?



“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
Ephesians 5:1-2

Prayer:
Lord, help me to be a good example rather than looking for ways to correct others with my words alone.

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:1-13

“Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus...was led...into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil...” — Luke 4:1-2

As we begin to journey through Lent, we remember that Jesus was called to fast for 40 days before he started his ministry. In this time, Luke tells us that he was tempted by the devil. Will we also be tempted during Lent? Most likely. We will be tempted to stop fasting because it’s “too hard.” We may be tempted to eat meat on Friday, because “everyone else does.” Countless other temptations may arise. In those moments, let us ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with God’s grace, that we may overcome the temptation and enter into the spirit of sacrifice to understand how great Jesus’ love for us was by following his example.

What kind of fast am I going to make for Lent? What are some ways I can avoid temptations?



Prayer:
Dear Lord, thank you for the fast you made in the desert. Thank you for your example in showing us that we should not give in to temptations, but have faith in the Father and show him our love by the sacrifices we make.

Download this month’s [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St. John the Baptist
[Saint Prayer Card](#) (black and white version for colouring)



Gospel Readings

March 16, 2025

2nd Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28b-36

"Join with others in being imitators of me...observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us...for many...conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ." — Philippians 3:17-18

We are called to live as Christians, not just when we are at "religious" events at church, but all of the time. This is not easy. We don't want to offend others by telling them they should convert to our religion. But we are called to be imitators of Jesus and how he included everyone, forgave those who were doing wrong, and worked to bring care and hope to the poor, sick, and lonely. St. Paul tried to imitate Christ and asked his readers to be imitators of Christ with him. Still today we are called to do the same.

Who are the role models in my life? Do they lead me to, or away from, Christ? What are some ways I can be a role model to others to encourage them to grow closer to Christ?



Prayer:

Dear Lord, please help us to show you our gratitude for all you did for us by not being afraid to show your love to everyone, every day, wherever we are.

March 23, 2025

3rd Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9

"...I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish..." — Luke 13:3

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us twice that if we are not sorry for our sins, we will perish. This can be hard for us to understand. Who wants to worship a God who sends people to hell because they made mistakes and did bad things? But maybe Jesus is not trying to scare us into doing the right things just to avoid punishment, but he is trying to teach us that being sorry for our sins and trying to live in his way is better for everyone, us included. We can all be more peaceful, loving, and full of joy and hope if we treat each other with love and concern. Yet we all get to choose - God won't force us to do the right thing. He does not want us to perish, but every time we do something that is hurtful to someone else, we "die" a little bit more. Lent is a perfect time to "repent" and change our ways so that we can get back on the path of life.

What have I done recently that wasn't good for me or for others that I need to repent of?
When have I done something that was good that produced good for others too?

SMALL
ACTS OF KINDNESS
CAN MAKE
A
BIG
DIFFERENCE

Prayer:

*Dear Lord, please help me to search my heart and find the things there that are not pleasing to you.
Give me the grace to confess them and change my life, so that I may spend eternity in your loving embrace.*

March 30, 2025

4th Sunday in Lent

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3,11-32

"So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him... "This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" — Luke 15:20, 24

The Gospel story today is about the Prodigal Son who wasted all of the money his father gave him and almost starved because he didn't have enough left to buy food for himself. It seems like the father would have been mad at him when he came home, but instead the father surprised everyone, even the son, by running out to meet him and welcoming him back by throwing a big party. Jesus wants us to know that God is like that with us. When we do something wrong and admit it, God doesn't punish us or make us feel worse, he rejoices that we want to start all over and try again. He says it's like we were dead but we have come back to life.

What are some things we have done that we regret and need to ask forgiveness for?
Who is good at welcoming us and still loving us, even when we make mistakes?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to come back to you when I have done wrong. Help me to believe that you forgive me.

[Home Page](#)

Sources:

I Believe: Exploring the Apostles' Creed by Alister McGrath
The Creed: A Catechist's Guide by Janet Schaeffler
The Apostles' Creed by Ben Myers

Sources cont.'d:

What Christians Ought to Believe by Michael Bird
The Quest for the Creed by Fr. Dwight Longenecker
The Creed by Timothy O'Malley